
Introduced by Senator Torres
(Coauthors: Senators Block, Evans, Hueso, Padilla, and Yee)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brown, Frazier, and Hall)

August 22, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to Suicide Prevention Week in California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 71, as introduced, Torres. Suicide Prevention Week in California.

This measure would proclaim the week of September 8, 2013, through September 14, 2013, as Suicide Prevention Week in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California recognizes suicide as a public health
2 problem and suicide prevention as a statewide responsibility; and
3 WHEREAS, Designating the second week of September as
4 “Suicide Prevention Week in California” would overlap with World
5 Suicide Prevention Day, which occurs on September 10, 2013,
6 and is recognized internationally and supported by the World
7 Health Organization; and
8 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of all deaths in
9 the United States and the 44th leading cause of all deaths in
10 California; and
11 WHEREAS, On average, 105 people commit suicide every day
12 in the United States, which equals approximately one person every
13 14.2 minutes; and
14 WHEREAS, In the United States, rates of suicide are highest
15 among people from 45 to 54 years of age, and rates of suicide

1 among youth who are from 15 to 24 years of age, have increased
2 more than 200 percent in the last 50 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Each day, an estimated 22 veterans in the United
4 States commit suicide, which equals approximately one veteran
5 every 65 minutes; and

6 WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are 4.78 million people
7 in the United States, known as survivors of suicide, who have lost
8 a loved one to suicide; and

9 WHEREAS, A great many suicides are preventable; and

10 WHEREAS, Most suicidal people display warning signals of
11 their intentions; however, others are often unaware of these signals
12 or unsure what to do about them; and

13 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illness and
14 suicide works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons
15 at risk for suicide from seeking lifesaving help and further
16 traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

17 WHEREAS, The State of California established the State
18 Department of Health Care Services-Suicide Prevention Program
19 (SPP), published the California Strategic Plan on Suicide
20 Prevention in 2008, and has supported multiple statewide and local
21 projects launched under the Mental Health Services Act
22 (Proposition 63); and

23 WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes the efforts of
24 organizations such as the American Association of Suicidology
25 that are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts
26 and deaths and the pain of survivors of suicide through educational
27 programs, research programs, intervention services, and
28 bereavement services; and

29 WHEREAS, Suicide Prevention Week in California is a time
30 to acknowledge the tragic loss of individuals who have committed
31 suicide and to commemorate the actions of organizations and
32 individuals working to prevent suicide and raise awareness of
33 suicide as a public health issue; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
36 week of September 8, 2013, through September 14, 2013, as
37 “Suicide Prevention Week in California,” and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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